

WATERSHED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED Program) is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. In addition, the CALFED Program has identified a set of solution principles and primary objectives to support the mission statement. The primary objectives of the CALFED Program are:

Ecosystem Quality

Improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species.

Water Supply

Reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and the current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system.

Water Quality

Provide good water quality for all beneficial uses.

Vulnerability of Delta Functions

Reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees.

The following solution principles were developed to guide the evaluation process for each alternative and to provide an overall measure of acceptability.

Reduce Conflicts in the System

Solutions will reduce major conflicts among beneficial uses of water.

Be Equitable

Solutions will focus on solving problems in all problem areas. Improvements for some problems will not be made without corresponding improvements for other problems.

Be Affordable

Solutions will be implementable and maintainable within the foreseeable resources of the Program and stakeholders.

Be Durable

Solutions will have political and economic staying power and will sustain the resources they were designed to protect and enhance.

Be Implementable

Solutions will have broad public acceptance and legal feasibility, and will be timely and relatively simple to implement compared with other alternatives.

Have No Significant Redirected Impacts

Solutions will not solve problems in the Bay-Delta system by redirecting significant negative impacts, when viewed in their entirety, within the Bay-Delta or to other regions of California.

PLACEHOLDER

Additional discussion of the four program concepts - 6 common programs; Phase I, II, and III; Program is programmatic in nature; etc.

WATERSHED PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Watershed Program is to help coordinate and integrate existing and future local watershed programs and to provide technical assistance and funding for watershed activities and protection relevant to achieving the goals and objectives of the CALFED Program. In order to achieve this goal, the following primary objectives have been identified:

- Facilitate and improve coordination and assistance between government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.
- Develop watershed monitoring assessment and protocol to be integrated into CMARP.
- Support education and outreach.
- Define the relationship between watershed processes and the CALFED Program goals and objectives.
- Integrate the CALFED Watershed Program with the other CALFED Common Programs.
- Implement a strategy which will assure support and long-term sustainability of local watershed activities.

BACKGROUND

PLACEHOLDER

discussion re: evolvement from the Water Quality Program and development of the

Strategy.

... As the CALFED Common Program plans evolved, particularly the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan and the Water Quality Program Plan, it became evident that some watershed activities and geographic regions were not included. Because these areas and activities are a significant component of the CALFED Program, the watershed element was elevated to a Common Program status.

In March 1998, the CALFED Watershed Management Strategy (Strategy) was released as an appendix to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (Programmatic EIS/EIR). The Strategy was an attempt to establish a framework for the Watershed Program. The document discussed the vision for watershed management, the geographic scope and goals for CALFED funded watershed projects, and the need to coordinate the Strategy with ongoing watershed efforts. Since the release of the Strategy in March 1998, much progress has been made in the development of the Watershed Program.

In March 1998, the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) (see Appendix __) was formed. The IWAT consists of 14 individuals representing 13 CALFED lead and cooperating agencies. The IWAT functions to help direct the development and implementation of the Watershed Program. The IWAT meets on a regular basis to discuss elements of the Watershed Program and create work products. For instance, members of the IWAT drafted the Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Program, Principles for Participation, and Stage I Implementation Actions.

In accordance with CALFED efforts to include public participation as an essential component of the CALFED Program, two Regional Watershed Stakeholder Meetings (Stakeholder Meeting) were held in April, 1998. The first Stakeholder Meeting was held in Sacramento on April 23, 1998; the other was held in Redding on April 30, 1998. There were over 125 attendees at each meeting. In addition to the Stakeholder Meetings, a Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) meeting was held in Redding on May 14, 1998, in which watershed issues were the focus.

The Stakeholder and BDAC meetings were intended to provide information about the development of the Watershed Program and to encourage stakeholders to participate in the process. Large portions of the meetings were designated for public comments. Many participants stated that stakeholder involvement and communication among interested parties should be a critical component of the Watershed Program.

PLACEHOLDER

- discussion re: comments.

...Strong support was given to the idea of the formation of a "Watershed Work Group" consisting of stakeholders.

PLACEHOLDER

- BDAC Watershed Work Group
- BDAC Watershed Public Workshops

- Figure re: Relationship of IWAT, Work Group, et al.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Please note that this section is virtually identical to the text in the Strategy.

However, there has been substantial public comments received regarding the division of - or drawing distinction between - watersheds. In addition, "upper" and "lower" watersheds does not adequately described the "geographic region" of the watershed, particularly those in the North Bay or south of the Delta.

The geographic scope of the Watershed Program is divided into two primary areas that reflect differing physical characteristics of the Bay-Delta watershed (see Figure __):

- The upper tributary watershed above reservoirs and major fish passage obstructions.
- The lower watershed, generally below those major fish passage obstructions.

Watershed actions in the lower watershed are implemented as part of the CALFED Common Programs. These actions primarily focus on restoring natural processes to the watersheds, removing or mitigating for stressors, improving water quality, and developing waters management activities which support a healthy Bay-Delta ecosystem. These actions could include instream flow patterns, water quality enhancements, surface and ground water integrated resource programs, and watershed restoration plans which are developed and implemented locally but form an ecosystem-wide coordinated program. Actions in the lower watershed could also include ground water management and conjunctive use of surface and ground water as methods of supplementing water supplies for all uses.

The upper watershed area has different biological problems which affect the Bay-

Delta system, including coniferous forest wildfire conflagration areas, post-mining water pollution sources, and road and drainage erosion areas which contribute to high stream sediment loads. The upper watersheds include unique upper-meadow restoration opportunities which may produce a natural process resulting in meadow ground water recharge, increases in ground water storage in meadows, increases in water yield, and a time-shifting of water releases in streams away from spring months to late summer months by these meadows. This could accrue benefits to all downstream segments as well as all users of water - environmental and human.

Discussion re: Trinity/So Cal watersheds?

WATERSHED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

I. Coordination and Assistance

- Establish and maintain watershed restoration assistance to aide local watershed programs and private landowners in their project concept, design, implementation, and monitoring. (Assistance could be provided by government agencies, academia, private consultants, and/or private landowners.)
- Identify government agencies and watershed groups that participate in watershed activities consistent with CALFED goals and objectives.
- Identify and recommend partnerships that could be formed.
- Describe mechanisms to coordinate funding among government agencies and to local watershed programs.
- Describe a mechanism to facilitate technical assistance from government agencies and others to local watershed programs.
- Building on existing programs, develop a long-term plan that identifies the types of assistance that may be needed, the array of government agencies and/or other entities best suited to deliver this assistance, and the funding levels necessary to carry out these long-term assistance programs.
- Assure that funding for assistance programs will continue throughout

the CALFED Program implementation period (20-30 years), - using stakeholder input obtained through the BDAC Watershed Work Group meetings and general stakeholder workshops.

Describe this part of the program, in concept, what, who, how this is accomplished. Actions to be accomplished over the 30 year life of the Program. First 7 years of actions will tier out of this discussion.

II. Adaptive Management and Monitoring

- Maintain a set of Watershed Principles to provide the basis for setting criteria for funding of watershed activities that could be supported by CALFED.
- Facilitate monitoring efforts that are consistent with CMARP's protocols.
- Define performance measures that ensure adaptive management processes can be applied at multiple scales and across ownerships.
- Through IWAT and other stakeholder input, help CMARP develop watershed management monitoring protocols that are not already developed for the other CALFED Common Programs.

Describe this part of the program, in concept, what, who, how this is accomplished. Actions to be accomplished over the 30 year life of the Program. First 7 years of actions will tier out of this discussion.

III. Education and Outreach

- Illustrate the benefits (including economic) that accrue from watershed plans and projects designed to achieve CALFED goals.
- Provide baseline support to organize watershed programs (e.g. coordinators, equipment, per diem, etc.).
- Provide support to existing/future watershed programs (e.g. coordinators, equipment, per diem to attend CALFED meetings, etc.) And coordinate training on monitoring, grant writing, and watershed assessment.
- Sponsor general stakeholder workshops, BDAC Watershed Work Group meetings, etc., to allow for exchange of information on local watershed program successes and failures.
- Improve and use and usefulness of existing or future clearinghouse functions to assist watershed groups conducting watershed activities. The clearinghouse(s) will include information about funding opportunities and relevant information on new watershed activities funded by CALFED and others.
- Support resource conservation education at the local watershed level.

Describe this part of the program, in concept, what, who, how this is accomplished. Actions to be accomplished over the 30 year life of the Program. First 7 years of actions will tier out of this discussion.

IV. Integration and Collaboration with other CALFED Common Programs

- Help resolve issues of liability and agency indemnification for environmental restoration work.
- Identify the relationship of the Watershed Management Program with the other CALFED Common Programs (Ecosystem Restoration, Water Quality, Water Use Efficiency, Water Transfers, and Levee Stability).

Describe this part of the program, in concept, what, who, how this is accomplished. Actions to be accomplished over the 30 year life of the Program. First 7 years of actions will tier out of this discussion.

V. Watershed Processes and Relationships

- Identify watershed functions and processes that are relevant to the CALFED goals and objectives.
- Describe how land use and other human activities affect/affected watershed functions and processes in ways that are favorable for or adverse to the CALFED goals and objectives.
- Identify examples of watershed activities that improve the basis biophysical functions and processes of a watershed.

Describe this part of the program, in concept, what, who, how this is accomplished. Actions to be accomplished over the 30 year life of the Program. First 7 years of actions will tier out of this discussion.

Implementation and Assurance Strategy

*Describe Stage 1-3 actions,
Monitoring and Adaptive management
approach, program finance strategy.
Finance strategy will largely refer to the
overall finance strategy currently being
developed*

Stakeholder Involvement

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